

motivated by his faith, Ryan moved to the Nuba Mountains in 2003 and worked for Samaritan's Purse, an aid group led by the Rev. Franklin Graham.

Early this year, Ryan married a local woman, Jazira, a health worker—and 6,000 joyous Nubans celebrated at the wedding, along with Ryan's parents, who flew in from Florida.

It was clear that war was brewing in the Nuba Mountains. The region had sided with South Sudan in the country's long civil war, but now South Sudan was separating while the Nuba Mountains would remain in the north. The people—mostly Muslim but with a large Christian minority—supported a local rebel army left over from the civil war.

In June, fighting erupted. The Sudanese government moved in to destroy the rebel army and depopulate areas that supported it. Aid organizations pulled out their workers. Ryan decided that he could not flee, so when Samaritan's Purse ordered him to evacuate, he resigned and stayed behind.

"A lot of people tried to convince me to leave," Ryan remembers. "But this is where my wife is from, this is where I've lived for eight years. It's hard to get on a plane and say, 'Bye, I hope to see you when this ends.'"

Ryan organized a network of 15 people to gather information and take photos and videos, documenting atrocities. He used a solar-powered laptop and a satellite phone to transmit them to the West, typically to the Enough Project, a Washington-based anti-genocide organization. He also supplied eyewitness interviews that helped the Enough Project and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative find evidence of atrocities, including eight mass graves, on satellite images. And he helped journalists understand what was going on.

"He's irreplaceable," said Jonathan Hutson of the Enough Project. "There's no substitute for someone on the ground."

Ryan tried to keep his presence in the region a secret, at least from the Sudanese government, for fear that it might seek to eliminate a witness. Once, a bombing seemed to target his hut, but he heard the plane approaching and ran out in his skivvies and took cover; the bombs missed, and he was unhurt.

After the first few weeks, the killings on the ground abated. But the government has continued the bombings.

"It's terrifying when they bomb," Ryan told me. "You don't feel safe at any time of day or night."

The bombs typically miss and have killed fewer than 200 people, he says, but they prevent people from farming their fields. Several hundred thousand people have been driven from their homes in the surrounding state of South Kordofan, Ryan says, and a famine may be looming.

"It's not a good time to have kids," Ryan quoted Jazira as telling him. "If we have kids, they'll just starve."

Frustrated by the lack of attention for the Nubans' plight, Ryan decided to return to the United States this month and tell his story. He couldn't get a visa for Jazira in time—obtaining an American visa for a spouse is a long and complex process—so she is in a refugee camp for 15,000 Nubans in South Sudan, struggling to address health needs there. Meanwhile, in Washington, Ryan has testified before Congress and met with White House officials.

Soon, he'll go back, rejoining Jazira and sneaking back with her into the Nuba Mountains. It'll be more dangerous than ever now that he has gone public, but he is determined to give voice to the voiceless—and Nubans will do everything to protect him.

In a world where leaders often pretend not to notice mass atrocities, for fear that they

might be called Upon to do something, I find Ryan an inspiration. His eyewitness accounts make it more difficult for the world to neglect a humanitarian crisis in the Nuba Mountains—even if he does need to brush up on his tech skills.

I asked Ryan if he planned to use Twitter. "Twitter?" he asked. "I've been in the bush for nine years, so I don't know how to use it." But he's planning to learn.

TRIBUTE TO SPC. JOSEPH B. DELOACH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of South Carolina's heroic sons, U.S. Army Specialist Joseph B. DeLoach, from Ruffin, South Carolina. In 2010, Specialist DeLoach was injured by an RPG while in Kunar Province, Afghanistan. He was serving as a cavalry scout with the 1-32 Cavalry Squadron, 101st Airborne (Air Assault), out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

The following poem, composed by Mr. Bert Caswell, an appreciated Capitol tour guide, is a testament to this true American hero.

OUT IN FRONT

All in times for war!
There, are but all of those who so insure!
With Scouts Out in front, you must believe!
For way out up ahead, there are all of those
fine soul who have died and bled!
As all out there on the very edge of death,
they so live . . .
All for Country Tis of Thee, so much they
give!
Scouts Out, Heroes who no doubt . . . may
not be coming home!
Gathering Intel, melding into the battle zone
. . . knowing so very well, death lies
close!
As they may be gone for days and days, for
only our Lord God so knows where are
they!
All to help win all those wars! Airborne!
As to new heights Blake, your fine heart has
soared!
For when they sign you up on that line,
You know for sure that you so live on all
borrowed time!
Realizing, on each new day . . . you but live
on, someone else's prayers!
All for love of Country Tis of Thee, they
cheat death we see!
Out of RECON, all by themselves as they
must be!
As their magnificent souls go so far beyond!
Oh Yea Blake, Rambo aint got nothing on
you . . . as into that darkness dis-
appearing, your gone!
The ones who so lead the way, and for all of
them and their fine families we now so
pray!
Way out up ahead, as into that darkness all
by themselves as they've so led!
Give Blake some C4 and DEC CORD, and he
will blow up anything all for . . .
All for that old red, white and blue!
For he's a true Son of the South . . . through
and through!
Scouts out!
Bad to the bone, as Blake that's you . . . the
title that you now so own!
As an American Hero so tried and true, but
The Best That South Carolina Can So
Do!
In Seven months in Iraq, you were involved
in six exploded IED's attacks!

And then on that fateful day, after recovering from his injuries re upping so bravely!

In Afghanistan, with your name on it . . . you met an RPG that your sight so ripped!

Right on the very edge of death, four times . . .

As your Brothers in Arms rushing in . . . your so blessed!

As an Angel on the Battlefield, named SPC Resmondo . . . so brought you back from death!

As you magnificent warrior, so lost your sight . . .

And yet you see far much more clearer than any of us tonight!

As you'd do it all again, All Out in Front . . . As so magnificently, bringing to all your light!

Scouts Out, are some of our nation finest men . . . who are Devout!

As it's only upon themselves, they they must so count!

As this strong South Carolina son, was raised by his fine mom and dad . . .

To be such the one!

But, there's even more greatness still to come . . . all in Blake's three young sons!

Ethan, Bryson, and Joey Jr., are but Blake's greatest of all loves!

Now, Blake is "Out in Front" all in his recovery, as he's on the hunt!

Because, Scouts fight, and they don't run!

A quiet calmness all in his heart has so begun!

And if ever I have a son, I wish he could be like this one!

Whose, life speaks volumes . . . all because of what he's so said and done!

As one day up in Heaven, one again, Blake you will be Out in Front!

For all you've done, and you will see our Lord my son!

HONORING LT. COLONEL THOMAS PLOURDE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lt. Colonel Thomas Plourde of Lewiston, Maine. Plourde was a member of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Japanese American Combat Team in World War II, all of whom will be receiving Congressional Gold Medals today.

The 442nd Combat Team was comprised almost entirely of Japanese Americans, men who volunteered to fight tyranny and oppression abroad even while their families were interred in camps at home. For its size and length of service, it was the most decorated unit in the entire history of the United States military. In the course of their service, the 442nd earned 9,486 Purple Hearts, eight Presidential Unit Citations, and 21 Medals of Honor. These brave men fought with unparalleled skill and valor winning tremendous victories for the allies in Europe. Their heroism cannot be overstated.

At just 23 years old at the time of his enlistment, Thomas Plourde would serve as a 1st Lieutenant before rising to become a company commander for the 442nd. Following a decisive victory in the allied push to liberate Italy, Lieutenant Plourde led a task force that secured the capture of 33 German officers and over

300 soldiers in the city of Alessandria. For his actions, he was awarded a division citation and accepted the key to Alessandria on behalf of his battalion. Subsequently Plourde would receive a field promotion to the rank of Captain, a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, and a Distinguished Unit Badge for his heroism. Citing his effectiveness under fire and his personal concern for the men under his command, Plourde's commanding officer Major Mitsuyoshi Fukuda wrote that he had "won the highest respect from both the men and the officers within the 100th Battalion."

Today, Thomas Plourde's daughter, Janet Barrett, will accept the Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of her father for his courageous service in the war. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award in the United States. The decoration is awarded to an individual who performs an outstanding deed or act of service for the security, prosperity, and national interest of the country. Mainers have a long tradition of service in the armed forces. I am proud of Lt. Colonel Plourde's place in that history. His remarkable leadership and heroism in the face of unspeakable evil will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Lt. Colonel Thomas Plourde of Lewiston, Maine, for his distinguished service to this country.

PENNY FOOLISH

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about common cents.

Currently it costs more than a penny for the U.S. Mint to make a one cent coin and more than a nickel to make the five cent piece. This problem is currently being examined at the request of the U.S. Mint.

Over the next two years, a Pennsylvania company has been contracted by the Mint to conduct research and development for more economical alternative metallic materials for the production of all circulating coins.

As this study begins, I would like to submit into the Record one possible solution, offered by David L. Ganz, a friend of mine, a member of the Board of Freeholders of Bergen County, N.J., and a former president of the American Numismatic Association.

In an op-ed in the Sunday New York Times from August 21, 2011, Mr. Ganz took on the issue of the penny and proposes a specific solution, which I hope that the study will review along with other alternatives.

[From New York Times, Aug. 20, 2011]

PENNY FOOLISH

(By David L. Ganz)

In this time of fiscal strain, Americans can find some savings by simply looking in their purses and pockets.

Because of increases in commodity prices, it now costs more than one cent to make a penny and more than five cents to make a nickel. The United States Mint, sensitive to the risks of changing the composition and feel of our coinage, has been reluctant to revise the composition of these two coins.

But that is precisely what the Mint—which last year produced 4 billion pennies and 490 million nickels—should do.

While eliminating the penny has been debated for decades, it is not a realistic option;

the penny has tremendous symbolic value and removing it would have the effect of raising prices—particularly for people of modest means, who use currency the most—because retailers would round up. Reducing the size of the coins is impractical because of the cost of recalibrating vending machines and the need to ensure that the coin is not interchangeable with any foreign coin.

Changing the composition of the penny by using less costly materials is the only feasible alternative. The Mint, part of the Treasury Department, has changed the size or composition of the cent more than a dozen times since 1793. Two of the most recent alterations were the switch to zinc-coated steel in 1943, caused by the wartime shortage of copper, and the switch to zinc with copper plating in 1982, a response to rising commodity prices.

Past debates have brought forth a variety of unconventional suggestions: plastic (used as sales-tax tokens—representing fractions of a cent—in the 1930s, but cheap-looking), industrial porcelain (Germany and Thailand tried this, but it breaks easily); and vulcanite rubber (used as currency in Guatemala early in the last century, but too exotic for American tastes).

Metallic alloys are probably the best choice for a new-composition penny and nickel. The precise choice needs to reflect four values: cost effectiveness, security of supply, aesthetic acceptability and minimal disruption to vending machines. (Pennies are not commonly accepted by machines, but are sometimes inserted anyway; a penny of a different composition could cause machines to jam.)

In a 1976 study of the penny, the Research Triangle Institute rejected chromium, tin, titanium, copper-aluminum-nickel-zinc derivatives and zinc mixtures. At current prices, none of these would be cost-effective. In practical terms, that leaves two basic metallic groups: an aluminum alloy, which is better, heavier and stronger than the pure aluminum cent proposed in the 1970s, but still expensive, and steel, which is the clear favorite for affordability and security, but poses technical challenges.

The best approach is to meld the two. Aluminized steel is ideal because it is available coiled—squeezed by rollers and then put into a lasso-like form that can be fed directly into a coining press. It would work for the penny and the nickel—and the dime, if it is ever threatened.

Let's use a new aluminized-steel alloy that allows the Mint to produce an affordable penny. Ideally, this would be accompanied by a redesign, and a collector's-edition one-cent coin made of gold and silver. This would complement the success the Mint has had with the state quarters program and with collectors' coins made of precious metals.

Contrary to the song, pennies do not come from heaven. Ours come from the Mint, which must supply them now and in the future. Let's reintroduce the penny as a coin that matters, and put its production on a sounder financial footing.

HONORING PATRICK HYLAND ON HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NORTHEAST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Patrick Hyland, who, for

more than 22 years, has served with distinction as executive director of the Northeast Public Power Association.

Under Pat Hyland's leadership, the Northeast Public Power Association has been the leading voice for 79 consumer-owned utilities that provide energy to more than two million citizens in the six New England states of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Over the years, Pat Hyland has worked closely with Members of the New England delegation, from both sides of the aisle, to advance the interest of NEPPA consumers in New England. Under the leadership of their local elected energy boards, NEPPA utilities are responsible for providing reliable electric services at affordable prices throughout the region.

Pat Hyland is well known throughout the New England Congressional delegation for his integrity and forthrightness. He has played a pivotal role in advocating on behalf of NEPPA utilities that deliver vital electricity, and in some cases water services, on a non-profit, publicly-accountable basis to consumers in small and large communities throughout New England.

To highlight just two of his successes, Pat has effectively spearheaded legislative efforts to increase awareness of impacts to consumers in New England—who are also our constituents—of wholesale and retail competition, including the creation of Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs), and energy capacity markets and the implementation of key transmission rate policies.

Throughout his career, Pat Hyland has been actively involved in federal energy policy. He was a key resource to me during the debate over the amendment that I successfully offered to provide for open transmission access when Congress enacted the Energy Policy Act of 1992; he was a voice of caution regarding the need to ensure appropriate consumer and investor protections in the event of a repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act in the Energy Policy Act of 2005; and he was a leader in the effort to obtain comparable renewable incentives for the customers of consumer-owned utilities.

He has also taken the lead to increase consumer awareness about the impact of wholesale and retail competition and operations of Regional Transmission Organizations.

My personal and professional respect and admiration for Pat runs deep, and I wish him happiness and good health in his retirement. The wise counsel, calm determination, and good Irish sense-of-humor, which he has provided to me and others in Congress for many years on behalf of NEPPA, will be sorely missed.

I am told that one of the highlights of Pat's life was to meet the legendary Celtics basketball player Bob Cousy. I understand that, because over the last 20 years Pat Hyland has been New England's public power "point guard": taking control of the game, mastering it with wizardry and elegance, and dazzling fans.

And so I wish today, Mr. Speaker to say to Pat, thank you for your service. We will miss you and we wish you well.